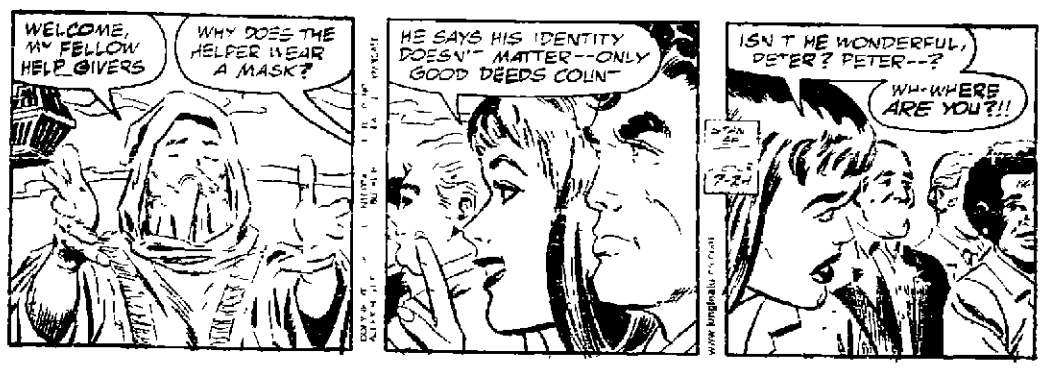
BLONDIE

SALLY FORTH

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



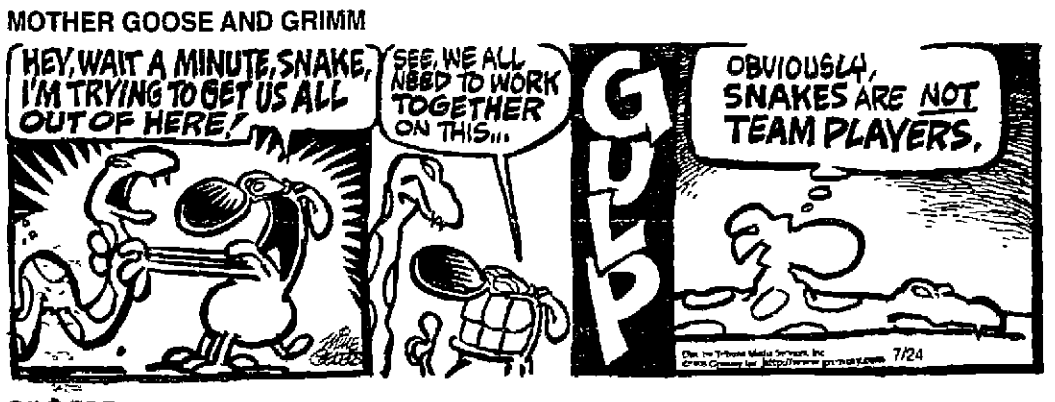
9 CHICKWEED LANE

ANDY CAPP

ROSE IS ROSE

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

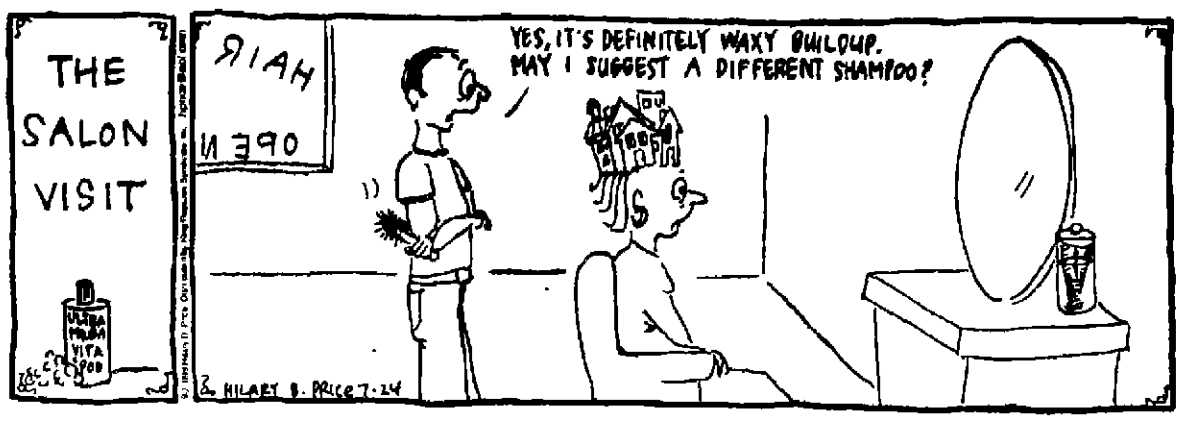


DILBERT

DENNIS THE MENACE

FAMILY CIRCUS

RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH

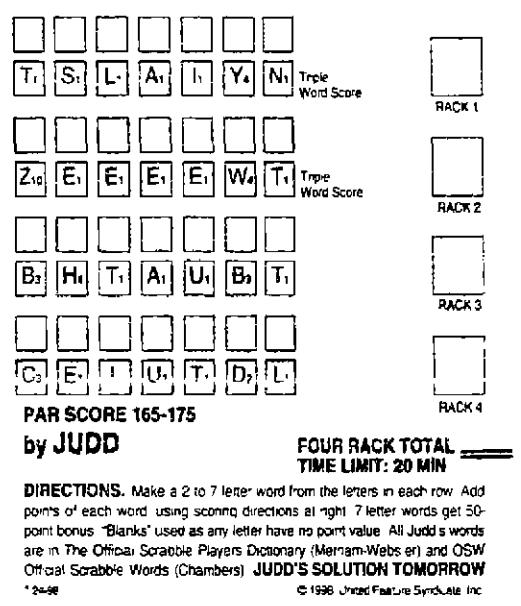
Today's Birthdays

Comedian **Ruth Buzzi** is 62. Actor **Mark Goddard** is 62. Actor **Dan Hedaya** is 66. Actor **Michael Richards** ("Seinfeld") is 49. Actress **Lynda Carter** is 47. Movie director **Gus Van Sant** is 46. Country singer **Pam Tillis** is 41. Actor **Kadeem Hardison** is 33. Actress Laura Leighton is 30. Actor **John P. Nevin Jr.** is 30. Actress **Jennifer Lopez** is 28. Actress **Anna Paquin** is 16. Actress **Mara Wilson** is 11.

I NEED HELP

"Guess who's earned a couple brownie points this year."

SCRABBLE



PAR SCORE 165-175

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS. Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merriam-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW**

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Saturday, July 26, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a fabulous time for play, fun and ro mance. Run with the adventure before you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Put those finances in order, and your sou will feel a whole lot lighter. You might experience some friction with a rela tive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Find like-minded souls to help you put you dreams into action. Exaggerating a tale might cause problems later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Take a break from those tiring responsib ities and make time for some fun and games.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You will be far more interested in socializing t taking care of business matters. You are bound to be the life of an excitin party.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Daydreaming can be both healthy and pro ductive. Don't let the problems of others bog you down.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You will get much further if you collaborate with others than if you work alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make sure a dispute with a family memb doesn't get ugly in public. This is a time to play by the rules.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) People will assume you are an auth ity on how to have a good time in your town.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Remember that things are not always as they seem and that there's more than one side to every story.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You will have to work hard to reach a compromise with a family member or friend. Others will require some of your time.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) You might be required to lend a hand to difficult stranger. Your compassion will make all the difference.

WORD SLEUTH

Garden tools

B G D L A X V S O N T K R I K
F D A X E V T Q O R M E K A R
J H F O S V C A O Y N W U O O
R P H A R R O W N U L J T H F
F D B Z E X E H R V T A I R G
Q O M G K L I P S E V E L H N
F D D B B Z Y W P I Y D L V I
T E R B Q O N L T O K A E I D
H F I D C A Z L W O L P R X A
W D V U S R U Q O N M S K P P
J I H F E C D R E D A E R P S

Thursday's unlisted clue: EVERT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Friday's unlisted clue hint: GATHERS LEAVES

Cultivator	Hoe	Shovel	Spreader
Dibble	Loppers	Spade	Tiller
Edger	Plow	Spading fork	Trowel
Harrow	Pruner	Sprayer	

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For solution, see Classified.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"You should have led a low trump at trick two, not your jack," offered a critical North. "What if West had three trumps including the king?" replied South. "I wanted to keep the lead to repeat the trump finesse." What better play did both overlook? Note South's response on meager values. When you have a smattering of strength and a five-card major, it rarely pays to pass partner's one-club opening when you hold only one club. South won his heart king and led his trump jack for a losing finesse. East returned a heart to knock out dummy's ace, and South was in trouble. Regardless of what he did now, he couldn't avoid going one down, losing a trump, a heart and two diamonds. North's criticism had some merit, given today's layout. But it reeked of "results analysis." Had South led a low trump to dummy's nine at trick two, he could have returned to his trump jack at trick four to risk a desperate club finesse. Had it lost, it would have cost an extra one down. However, when it won, South could discard his heart loser and make the game. Much better is to take the club finesse at trick two. If it loses, South merely trades his heart loser for a club loser. When East returns a heart to dummy's ace, South discards his remaining heart loser on the club ace and uses ruffing entries for the trump finesse. Finesse with a singleton? Why not? When there's nothing to lose and everything to gain, it's the only reasonable play.

07-24-A

	NORTH	
	♠ A Q 10 9	
	♥ A 7 3	
	♦ Q J 10	
	♣ A Q 5	
WEST		EAST
♠ 6 2		♠ K 4
♥ Q J 10 4		♥ 9 6 5
♦ K 4 3		♦ A 6 5
♣ K 8 6 3		♣ J 10 9 7 2
	SOUTH	
	♠ J 8 7 5 3	
	♥ K 8 2	
	♦ 9 8 7 2	
	♣ 4	

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: North

The bidding

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Heart queen

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0612

ACROSS

1 First of four Chuck Noll championships
12 The Beatles' "—— Mine"
15 Delta shelter of 1978
16 Present location?
17 Possible police charge
19 Remaining silent, at times
20 Kind of story
21 "Cobwebs From an Empty Skull" humorist
22 Cardio : heart :: —— : ear
23 The people's choice
26 Workout number
27 Glorify
29 Big name in cartography
30 Last's correlative
32 Paige of stage and screen
33 With 34-Across, like some women's shoes
34 See 33-Across
36 Baseball card deals
39 Some new parents
43 —— law, in physics
44 One who's full of praise
45 "And —— bed": Pepys
47 Lens with a crescent-shaped section
49 Great ball of fire
50 In order
51 Unexpectedly come (by)
54 Part of seawater
55 Proto-helicopter designer
58 Relative of "Mac-"
59 Unpredictable sort
60 Bards' affirmations
61 Modern medicine tablet feature

DOWN

1 Tailor, humorously
2 Like leftovers
3 Onetime Sinatra impersonator
4 Utter
5 Dorm overseers, for short
6 Diner orders
7 Home to Columbus
8 Was successful in Vegas
9 Blockhead
10 Actress Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
11 Having a dry environment
12 Basque or Catalan
13 40's-50's world pool champ Willie
14 Holds out
[illegible] team acquisition, say
24 Jackpot games
26 Corner feature
27 Bigfoot specification?
28 "Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree": Coleridge
31 Records that may be broken
32 Black shade
36 Pick
[illegible] U N. action
37 Repeated word in a contract
38 Embryonic membranes
40 Incline (to)
41 Toto's 1982 Record of the Year
46 Wall materials
48 Old import tax
48 Surfing the Web
48 Ten Commandments word
52 Germany's Frankfurt an der ——
53 Clip
54 Excellent-plus rating
56 Suffix with czar
57 ——-de-Marne, France

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

I	S	M	S		D	W	A	R	F		N	E	S	S
O	M	I	T		W	A	F	E	R		A	L	T	O
T	'	E	R		E	N	'	C	E		C	L	A	D
A	S	S	A	I	L	E	D		E	G	R	E	S	S
		G	O	L	D	S			R	O	E			
F	U	N	G	U	S			A	I	D		A	C	T
E	T	A	L			M	I	S	D	O		M	I	A
T	H	R	E	E	M	U	S	K	E	T	E	E	R	S
C	E	E		K	U	D	O	S			N	E	C	K

			T	N	T		E	L	A	T	E			
S	T	O	O	G	E		F	U	S	E	L	A	G	E
H	A	S	T		R	E	A	M	S		O	R	A	Y
A	N	T	E		E	S	T	E	E		P	E	E	R
Y	S	E	N		N	E	S	T	S		S	A	D	E

1-900-420-5656 (75¢ per minute)

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: **1-888-7-ACROSS.**

Puzzle by Matt Gaffney